

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

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R 020637Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9663

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1087

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, BU

SUBJECT: CURRENT BULGARIAN ATTITUDE AND POLICY TOWARD US

1. ON BASIS OF ADMITTEDLY VERY SUBJECTIVE AND UNSCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF QUANTITY AND INTENSITY OF MATERIAL CRITICAL OF OR DEROGATORY TOWARD US THAT HAS APPEARED IN TIGHTLY CONTROLLED PRESS, FOLLOWING PICTURE EMERGES OF OFFICIAL ATTITUDE OVER PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY PAST YEAR. ANTI-US MATERIAL DECLINED TO A LOW POINT DURING POPOV VISIT TO US IN SEPTEMBER 1974 AND REMAINED RELATIVELY LOW THROUGH REMAINDER OF YEAR AS BULGARIA RETAINED EXPECTATIONS OF MFN STATUS UNDER TRADE BILL. WITH SHATTERING OF THOSE HOPES IN JANUARY, AND BULGARIAN DECLARATION IT COULD NOT ACCEPT PROVISIONS OF TRADE ACT, THERE WAS PERCEIVABLE UPSWING IN CRITICAL AND OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL. LEVEL HAS MORE-OR-LESS REMAINED AT THIS PLATEAU ALTHOUGH COLLAPSE OF CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM PROVIDED ANOTHER PEAK.

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2. GLOATING OVER EVENTS IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM WERE TO BE EXPECTED, BUT REACHED SOME REPUGNANT HEIGHTS. ON OTHER HAND, SIGNS IN MAY DAY PARADE SIMPLY GREETED VICTORY OF "VIETNAMESE PEOPLE" AND MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR,

WHICH OFFERED OPPORTUNITY FOR FULMINATION, RECEIVED RELATIVELY SUBDUED TREATMENT. BRITISH AMBASSADOR, WHO ATTENDED GABROVO HUMOR FESTIVAL WITH BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION, INFORMED EMBASSY FESTIVAL FEATURED HIGHLY OBJECTIONABLE ANTI-US PROPAGANDA, BUT TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE THIS MATERIAL HAS NOT BEEN DISSEMINATED THROUGH MASS MEDIA. WHEN MEMBERS OF DELEGATION LATER MET WITH FONMIN MLADENOV ONE MEMBER FORCEFULLY OBJECTED TO ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA AT GABROVO. MLADENOV SAID THAT QUESTION OF ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA HAD BEEN DISCUSSED RECENTLY WITH AMBASSADOR HERZ WHO WAS TOLD THAT BULGARIA IS NOT CONDUCTING ANTI-US PROPAGANDA. MLADENOV ADDED THAT BULGARIA HAD AN OBLIGATION TO CRITICIZE REACTIONARY AND PRO-FASCIST REGIMES (BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S REPORT BEING POUCHED). IN SHORT, IDEA IS APPARENTLY TO KEEP UP PROPAGANDA ATTACK, BUT WITHIN LIMITS.

3. BULGARIAN POLICY TOWARDS US HAS NOT UNDERGON ANY APPARENT CHANGE AS RESULT OF RECENT US PROBLEMS OR REVERSES. ALTHOUGH BULGARIANS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY AS SURPRISED AS REST OF WORLD AT SPEED AND SCOPE OF REVERSES IN INDO-CHINA, THEY WERE IDEOLOGICALLY PREPARED FOR "INEVITABLE" VICTORY OF REVOLUTIONARY FORCES. FURTHER, THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS NOW THAT A CERTAIN RESERVE IS RETURNING TO VIEW ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN EVENTS STEMMING FROM UNCERTAINTY HOW MUCH INFLUENCE THE SOVIET UNION WILL HAVE WITH NEW REGIMES IN AREA. RESULT IS LITTLE INCENTIVE FOR CHANGE IN ATTITUDE OR POLICY.

4. GOB PREVIOUSLY SAW ITS RELATIONS WITH US IN TERMS OF TECHNOLOGY AND KNOW-HOW IT WISHED TO ACQUIRE. THESE HAVE BEEN UNAFFECTED BY EVENTS IN INDO-CHINA OR US ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. INDICATIONS ARE THAT BULGARIA CONTINUES TO WISH DEVELOPMENT OF BENEFICIAL RELATIONS. EVEN WHILE RULING OUT AGREEMENT UNDER TRADE ACT, BULGARIANS TOOK SOME PAINS NOT TO EXCLUDE FURTHER TRADE

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DEVELOPMENT. THEY HAVE CONTINUED TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN AGREEMENTS WITH US, MOST RECENTLY IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE DURING THE VISIT TO BULGARIA OF US UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE CAMPBELL. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN AN EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO PROCEED IN VARIOUS FIELDS ON AN AD HOC BASIS PRIOR TO ANY WRITTEN AGREEMENTS. THIS WILLINGNESS HAS NOT REALLY BEEN TESTED AND MAY DISAPPEAR WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR TALK TO GIVE WAY TO ACTION.

5. FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE, BULGARIAN POLICY WILL NOT STRAY FROM THAT OF SOVIET UNION. LEAVING ASIDE CONSIDERATION OF HOW MUCH DEVIATION SOVIETS MIGHT

TOLERATE, BULGARIA SIMPLY HAS LITTLE IF ANYTHING TO GAIN, PSYCHOLOGICALLY OR MATERIALLY, FROM CHARTING AN INDEPENDENT COURSE. IT BENEFITS FROM ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND IS NOT AN UNWILLING OR RELUCTANT PARTNER. WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, BULGARIA WILL TAKE NO TRULY INDEPENDENT INITIATIVES TOWARD US.

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